

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request a one-month extension of time to July 1, 2006 in which to respond to the official action. This timely filed response is in compliance with the one-month extension of time. If additional fees are required or a credit is due, than these fees can be charged or credited to the undersigned Attorneys Deposit Account 10-0100.

This preliminary amendment is filed simultaneously with the Request for Continued Examination. A check in the amount of \$910 is enclosed for the filing fees. Inasmuch as the outstanding office action was marked final and based on Section 112 rejections, and there are no art rejections, applicants have accordingly rewritten the claims in their entireties to overcome or obviate the Section 112 rejections.

Claims 86 to 116 are cancelled, without prejudice.

Claims 117 to 150 are presented in lieu thereof.

Claims 117 to 150 do not contain the Section 112 impediments.

The following table is a comparison of the cancelled claims with the counterpart substitute claims.

Table. Corresponding former claims 86 -116 and current claims 117-150.

Former Claim Number	Current Claim Number	Support for current claims a) Detailed Description of Invention ("DDI") ; b) examples ("EX")

86	117	Background [0013] (Introductory paragraph). Term “miniplug” was replaced with ‘plug’ according to DDI [0094]. All other occurrences, the term miniplug was replaced with plug DDI [0114- 0115]. DDI [0235, 0236, 240]
87	118	Final part of former claim 87 was deleted. The rest was amended according to DDI [0118, 0161]
88	119	As former claim 88, but the writing was attempted to improve.
89	120	Claim was restricted to ‘one of said minigels’ and ‘N’ was replaced with ‘NM’ for homogenizing terms in all claims.
90	121	Final part of the claim was deleted, Claim was rewritten with proper dependency of claim 117 is presented. The area of lateral walls is specifically claimed. DDI [0116].
97	122	Former claim 97 and part of former claim 91 were merged in a single claim, because current claim restricts number of UEZs
96	123	Current amended claim depends on claim 122. Changes conform to the examiner’s suggestions The pieces that occlude UEZs were limited to rectangular blocks. We also add that UEZ and minigel width are the same DDI [0115, 0166, 0168, 0281].
91	124	Claim was constrained to minigel arrangement inside the chamber. “Tandem” was deleted from the claim
92	125	Change conformed to the examiner’s suggestions
93	126	Proper dependence of claim 125 was established
94	127	Proper dependence of claim 125 was established
95	128	Changes conformed to examiner’s request. The term ‘mini-platform’ was homogeneously used in the claim. DDI [0166]
98	129	Changes obeyed to examiner suggestions
99	130	Claim was rewritten. The blocks occluding NEZs were limited according to DDI and examples [0280, 0282, 0161, 0167]
100	131	Mainly unmodified. The text was rewritten according to DDI [0235-0236]
101	132	The text was rewritten
102	133	‘Rod waist’ was replaced with ‘ <i>said waist-shaped notch</i> ’ according to DDI [0237-0240]
104	134	‘The first set’ was written as suggested the examiner. Claim was rewritten and height of slot was limited to 0.3 cm according to DDI [0195, 0196, 0197]
105	135	The wording was modified according to DDI [0198]
106	136	‘The second set’ was recited as suggested by the examiner Unclear expressions were deleted, Phrases such as: ‘ <i>a comb...</i> ’ and ‘ <i>another comb...</i> ’ were replaced with: ‘first comb’ and ‘second comb’ to better define both combs.
107	137	‘Unclear expressions’ such as ‘ <i>from 0.03 to about 0.1 cm.</i> ’ were replaced with precise ranges.

108	138	The wording was modified
109	139	The wording was modified
110	140	'The third set' was recited as suggested the examiner. Unclear constructions were deleted Rewriting based on DDI [0221, 0206]
115	141	The wording was slightly modified. The composition of buffer solution was specified. DDI [0121, 0141]
116	142	The wording was slightly modified. The composition of buffer solution was specified. DDI [0121, 0141]
103	143	Claim was written as an independent method claim: <u>'The method for pulling tight electrodes...'</u> Antecedent basis and the method are described in DDI [0234-0244]
	144	A new independent method claim. DDI [0162, 0200 – 0217, 0319, 0320], DDI [0271, 0221-223, 206, 0340], DDI [0218 – 0233, 0339-0344]
112	145	A method claim depending on claim 144: <i>'The method for casting agarose minigels...'</i> Antecedent basis and the method are described in DDI [0162, 0200 – 0217, 0319, 0320]
111	146	It is a method claim, depending on claim 144: <u>'The method for preparing DNA samples...'</u> Antecedent basis and the method are described in DDI [0218 – 0233, 0339-0344]
113 and 114	147	Former claims 113 and 114 were merged and current claim 147 was written as an independent method claim: <i>'The method for varying the number of UEZs ...'</i> Antecedent basis and the method are described in DDI [093, 0112, 0119, 0143 -149, 0151, 0155, 0166, 0168, 0280, 0282]
-	148	A new independent method claim: <i>'The method for performing electrophoresis in a TAFE..'</i> Antecedent basis and the method are described in DDI [0268 – 0274]
-	149	A new method claim, depending on claim 148, i.e. <i>'...prior to step(vii)...'</i> Antecedent basis of this step is described in DDI [0271]
	150	A new method claim, depending on claim 148: <i>'...prior to step(iii)...'</i> Antecedent basis of this step is described in DDI [0119, 0155, 0166, 0143-0149]

Applicants submit that the amended claims and new claims are allowable.

Applicants respectfully request an early notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted

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